

8. Comments and Coordination During Draft EIS Preparation	8-1
Public Involvement	8-1
Public Information Meeting.....	8-1
Project Advisory Committee.....	8-2
First PAC Meeting.....	8-2
Second PAC Meeting.....	8-2
Third PAC Meeting.....	8-3
Fourth PAC Meeting.....	8-3
Local Information Centers.....	8-4
Newsletter	8-4
Press Releases/Media Involvement	8-4
Public Information Web Site	8-4
Miscellaneous Meetings	8-5
Agency Coordination.....	8-5

Exhibits

8-1 Project Advisory Committee List

Tables

8-1 Meeting Summary	8-5
8-2 Agency Coordination Summary	8-6

SECTION 8

COMMENTS AND COORDINATION DURING DRAFT EIS PREPARATION

Section 8 discusses community involvement activities and coordination with state and federal review agencies and other interest groups during the development and evaluation of alternatives and the preparation of the Draft EIS. The study team offered several opportunities for citizens and state and federal review agencies to be involved in the process. In addition, study team members attended several meetings initiated by local officials and citizens.

The public involvement process was open to all residents and population groups in the study area and did not exclude any persons because of income, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. As discussed in EIS Sections 3 and 4, no environmental justice groups or individuals were identified in the WIS 83 study area that would warrant special public outreach efforts beyond those described below. Individual announcements for the public information meeting and local information centers held during activities leading to the Draft EIS were sent to all abutting property owners and numerous other interests along the WIS 83 corridor. Over 200 people attended the public information meeting and over 500 hundred people attended the local information centers. During these activities that allowed the study team to meet and visit with nearly all potentially affected citizens, there was no indication that additional outreach was required to ensure maximum public participation opportunities.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public Information Meeting

A public information meeting was held during the engineering and environmental study phase. The meeting was announced with paid display advertisements in the *Kettle Moraine Index*, *Lake Country Reporter*, the *Mukwonago Chief*, the *Waukesha Freeman*, and the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. It was also announced through project newsletters sent to property owners, local officials, and other interest groups.

The meeting was held on December 3, 2002, at Kettle Moraine High School located off Highway 18 in Wales. About 207 people attended the open-house style meeting, which ran from 5 to 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background information on the purpose and need for long-range improvements to WIS 83, present the alternatives that were retained for detailed study and their impacts, discuss the study scope and schedule, and obtain input on the alternatives and discuss any concerns or issues that should be considered during further development and refinement of the alternatives.

In general, most citizens agree there are emerging safety and traffic congestion problems along portions of the WIS 83 corridor. Many felt a future four-lane highway is not needed in the entire corridor to address these concerns. Several expressed concerns about displacements of homes and businesses. Others expressed concerns about future access to WIS 83 and improving sight distance at vertical curves and intersections. There was strong opposition to widening the roadway to four lanes in the stretch from Walnut Street/Seville Lane in "Genesee Village" to County D north of Genesee Depot. Others opposed the Off-Alignment Alternative (Alternative D). There was substantial concern about the effects of a four-lane highway on aesthetics, noise, land use, property values, and the relatively "rural" character of the corridor.

Several suggestions regarding westward only expansion were also expressed. Other suggestions included narrowing the width of the median, more roadway cross section options, addition of signals at Criglas or Main streets, and addition of warning lighting in school zones.

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Project Advisory committee (PAC) was established to provide input to the study team and to serve as a local link between area citizens and the study team. The PAC includes local officials, citizens, and state and federal agency representatives (See Exhibit 8-1). Information was provided in the take home materials at the public information meetings to encourage local dialogue and contacts. Four PAC meetings were held during activities leading to the preparation of the Draft EIS.

First PAC Meeting

The first PAC meeting was held on January 30, 2002 at the Genesee Town Hall in Genesee Depot. In addition to WisDOT and consultant study team members, the meeting was attended by local officials, citizen interests, and representatives from SEWRPC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FHWA, and DNR.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the study's engineering and environmental tasks and data gathering efforts, present results of the crash data analysis, discuss traffic characteristics, review preliminary roadway cross-sections and alignments, and report on citizen input from the local information sessions held up to that date.

Key issues identified included the following:

- Clearly and concisely displaying crash information to the public through the use of symbols and/or footnotes
- Interpreting and conveying video license plate survey results and how they relate to project purpose and need
- Selection of roadway cross-sections compatible to the surrounding environment and capable of handling future traffic increases
- Possible local controversy over any Off-Alignment Alternatives
- Coordination with all involved agencies and interest groups while adhering to the merged NEPA/Section 404 requirements

Second PAC Meeting

The second PAC meeting was held on May 22, 2002 at the Genesee Town Hall in Genesee Depot. In addition to WisDOT and consultant study team members, the meeting was attended by local officials, representatives from SEWRPC, FHWA, and DNR, a Community Against Road Expansion (CARE) representative, and other interested citizens.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a study update on traffic forecasts, the travel survey, and the public involvement process and to discuss the draft purpose and need statement and preliminary range of alternatives.

Key issues identified included the following:

- WisDOT's traffic forecasts support SEWRPC's traffic gap recommendation (County X to County DE/E)
- Travel survey completed; trip information not yet analyzed
- Addition of minor discussions in purpose and need relating to land use and road classification
- Consideration of storm water quality, narrower lanes/cross-sections, potential truck traffic increase, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Third PAC Meeting

The third PAC meeting was held on November 13, 2002 at the Genesee Town Hall in Genesee Depot. In addition to WisDOT and consultant study team members, the meeting was attended by local officials, representatives from SEWRPC, FHWA, and DNR, a Community Against Road Expansion (CARE) representative, and other interested citizens.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a study update on purpose and need items including the travel survey and level of service thresholds, discuss refinement of alternatives, review potential archaeological and historic sites, assess agency coordination efforts and the public involvement process, and review preliminary impacts.

Key issues identified included the following:

- WisDOT responsibility for making a decision among the alternatives being considered in the Genesee Depot area
- Median landscaping/planting options, maintenance, funding
- Current parkland use and potential future impacts
- Suspending the local information center meetings for a few months to allow for evaluation of the alternatives by the study team
- Including more discussion in the purpose and need regarding Off-Alignment Alternatives (development, location, elimination) and the license plate survey results

Fourth PAC Meeting

The fourth PAC meeting was held on July 22, 2003 at the Genesee Town Hall in Genesee Depot. In addition to WisDOT and consultant study team members, the meeting was attended by local officials, representatives from SEWRPC, FHWA, and DNR, a Community Against Road Expansion (CARE) representative, a representative of the Genesee Depot Neighborhood Alliance, and other interested citizens.

The purpose of the meeting was to update PAC members on the study, review key findings in the preliminary Draft EIS (alternatives, impact categories), provide an update on agency coordination and public involvement, and to discuss upcoming activities and schedule.

Local Information Centers

Local information center meetings were held at the Kettle Moraine Evangelical Free Church in Delafield from 1 to 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month during preparation of the EIS beginning in December 2001. WisDOT and consultant study team members were available to answer questions during these informal, open-house style meetings. Several exhibits were on display each month showing corridor study aerials, crash and traffic data, on and off-alignment roadway alternatives and cross-sections, and preliminary impacts. Take-home materials including study updates, some exhibits, and comment forms were made available. The monthly meetings were suspended after the June 13, 2002 meeting to allow for further evaluation of roadway alternatives. Meetings resumed on January 9, 2003 and continued through early summer 2003.

The local citizen's group, CARE, presented a petition to the study team at the April 11, 2002 meeting expressing their opposition to any expansion of WIS 83 in the Town of Genesee. There were approximately 1,200 signatures with a mix of individuals within the study corridor and outside the corridor.

An additional local citizen's group, Genesee Depot Neighborhood Alliance, presented a petition to the Genesee Town Board on May 12, 2003. The petition proposes to eliminate the bypass proposal through Genesee Depot, investigate a bypass to the west on County E if one is needed, place a four-way stop at WIS 83 and County D, abandon all plans to widen WIS 83 from WIS 59 to County D, reduce the speed limit from WIS 59 to County D to 25 or 30 mph, place school zone signs at St. Paul's and Magee, and place appropriate signs for Ten Chimneys. The petition was signed by 394 citizens who work, shop, dine, or live in Genesee Depot and 109 citizens who live along WIS 83 in Genesee Depot.

Newsletter

A newsletter was sent in July, 2002 to announce the first public information meeting and to provide information about the study, public involvement, the PAC, and EIS schedule. A short discussion on alternatives and environmental constraints was also included. The newsletter was sent to federal, state, and local officials, agencies, utilities, abutting property owners, and other interests.

Press Releases / Media Involvement

During **Draft** EIS activities, several articles were published in area newspapers presenting WisDOT and citizen viewpoints on the proposed improvements to WIS 83. Local radio and television media also provided coverage of WisDOT and citizen input.

Public Information Web Site

A WisDOT public information web site was established to disseminate project information. The web site contains study information and updates, links to key project communications (public information meeting notes, PAC meeting notes, study area maps, and other information). The web site is accessible on WisDOT's home page at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov>. Once the home page is reached, click on plans and projects, then click "location", and click "Waukesha Transportation District 2", find the "Studies" section and click on "WIS 83 study". The web site may also be accessed directly from:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/d2/wis83/index.htm>.

Miscellaneous Meetings

An initial meeting was held with local officials on October 8, 2001 to introduce the WIS 83 corridor study and discuss engineering and environmental activities, data gathering and field work, and the community involvement plan that would include a project advisory committee.

Throughout development and refinement of alternatives and activities leading to the Draft EIS, numerous meetings were held in the study area including those initiated by area residents and local government, meetings with individual interests, and regularly scheduled local government meetings at which the WIS 83 project was an agenda item. Representatives of WisDOT, the consultant study team, or both attended the meetings listed in Table 8-1.

TABLE 8-1
Meeting Summary

Date	Interest Group	Date	Interest Group
February 4, 2002	Ice Age Trail Representatives	November 12, 2002	Wales Village Board
March 22, 2002	Citizen's group (CARE)	January 14, 2003	Kettle Moraine School Board
April 29, 2002	Citizen's group (CARE)	February 5, 2003	Town of Mukwonago Plan Commission
May 15, 2002	Group property owner meeting	February 13, 2003	Genesee Town officials
June 17, 2002	Wales Village Board	March 27, 2003	Public Use Land Representatives
July 24, 2002	Corridor Study Herpetologist		

Agency Coordination

The Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft EIS for the WIS 83 study was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26, 2001. After the study's north terminus was extended, a supplementary Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5, 2001.

Agency scoping/coordination with state and federal review agencies and Native American interests began in summer 2001 and continued throughout development and refinement of alternatives and preparation of the Draft EIS. Agency scoping activities included initial letters informing agencies about the WIS 83 corridor study, follow up letters with information on purpose and need and the alternatives being considered, and invitations to participate in a field review. Table 8-2 summarizes key agency coordination activities.

TABLE 8-2
Agency Coordination Summary

Agency	Coordination Activities and Correspondence
County Agencies	
Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department	<p>February 4, 2002—meeting with IAPTF representatives, NPS, and Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department regarding trail crossing options.</p> <p>July 29, 2002—letter to Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study, alternatives, potential 4(f), 6(f) resources, and requesting input.</p> <p>December 30, 2002—letter from Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department providing information on funding and use of county parcels; requested recreational trail crossing options. (See Appendix C, page C-1)</p> <p>March 27, 2003—participated in public use land meeting.</p> <p>April 8, 2003—letter from Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department providing information on public use lands within WIS 83 corridor (see Appendix C, page C-2)</p>
State Agencies/Related	
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	<p>October 22, 2001—letter to DNR notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study.</p> <p>June 5, 2001—letter from DNR providing information on wetlands, possible state-listed threatened or endangered species, and recreational trails (see Appendix C, page C-3).</p> <p>February 19, 2002—participated in corridor field review of potential archaeological/historical properties.</p> <p>May 21, 2002—letter from DNR providing preliminary information on stream crossings, wetlands, state-listed threatened, endangered, or special concern species, parklands, and recreational trails (see Appendix C, page C-4).</p> <p>October 21, 2002—participated in an inter-agency meeting/corridor field review to discuss project purpose and need, reasonable alternatives, and environmental constraints and resources.</p> <p>November 25, 2002—participated in corridor field review of a potential Off-Alignment Alternative and associated impacts.</p> <p>November 27, 2002—letter from DNR providing comments on project purpose and need and alternatives (see Appendix C, page C-5).</p> <p>February 25, 2003—telephone conversation regarding recreation trail and parkland funding.</p> <p>March 27, 2003—participated in public use land meeting.</p> <p>May 19, 2003—letter from DNR providing comments and information on public use/recreational facilities (see Appendix C, page C-6).</p> <p>August 5, 2003—letter to DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources requesting additional information on potential threatened, endangered, or special concern species in the specific area of potential effect for the reasonable build alternatives.</p>
State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHS)	<p>Miscellaneous contacts during data gathering for information on archaeological and historic resources</p> <p>December 13, 2002—participated in an inter-agency meeting to discuss cultural resource aspects and Section 106 process.</p> <p>May 19, 2003—letter from SHS concurring in results of historical resource surveys and historic Determination of Eligibility to National Register of Historic Places (see Appendix C, page C-7).</p>

TABLE 8-2
Agency Coordination Summary

Agency	Coordination Activities and Correspondence
Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)	<p>February 5, 2003—letter to DATCP providing preliminary information on alternatives and impacts to farmland resources.</p> <p>February 13, 2003, letter from DATCP expressing concerns for potential farm impacts; they will evaluate the project further after selection of a recommended alternative to determine whether an Agricultural Impact Statement will be required (see Appendix C, page C-8).</p>
Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (IAPTF)	<p>November 16, 2001—letter from IAPTF regarding Ice Age Trail and Lake County Trail crossings (see Appendix C, page C-9).</p> <p>February 4, 2002—meeting with IAPTF representatives, NPS, and Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department regarding trail crossing options.</p> <p>July 29, 2002—letter to IAPTF notifying about study updates, alternatives, and requesting information on IAPTF parcel in Hartland.</p> <p>March 27, 2003—participated in public use land meeting.</p> <p>April 2, 2003—letter from IAPTF regarding Ice Age Trail crossing and IAPTF parcel (see Appendix C, page C-10).</p>
Federal Agencies	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	<p>October 22, 2001—letter to COE notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study.</p> <p>November 6, 2001—letter to COE requesting that COE be a Cooperating Agency for the WIS 83 Corridor Study and EIS.</p> <p>November 30, 2001— letter from COE concurring in FHWA's request to be a Cooperating Agency for the WIS 83 Corridor Study (see Appendix C, page C-11).</p> <p>November 18, 2002— participated in an inter-agency meeting/corridor field review to discuss project purpose and need, reasonable alternatives, and environmental constraints and resources.</p> <p>March 7, 2003—mailed COE updated project purpose and need and alternatives.</p> <p>April 15, 2003—email from COE concurring with project purpose and need and alternatives (see Appendix C, page C-12).</p>
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (F&W)	<p>October 22, 2001—letter to F&W notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study.</p> <p>December 3, 2001—letter from F&W providing information on federally-listed threatened and endangered species and requesting notification of future project activities (see Appendix C, page C-13).</p>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<p>October 22, 2001—letter to EPA notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study.</p> <p>November 18, 2002—participated in an inter-agency meeting/corridor field review to discuss project purpose and need, reasonable alternatives, and environmental constraints and resources.</p> <p>November 27, 2002—letter from EPA providing comments on project purpose and need and alternatives (see Appendix C, page C-14).</p> <p>March 31, 2003—letter to EPA addressing their comments on project purpose and need and alternatives.</p> <p>April 18, 2003—letter from EPA concurring with project purpose and need and alternatives (see Appendix C, page C-15).</p>

TABLE 8-2
Agency Coordination Summary

Agency	Coordination Activities and Correspondence
U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS)	<p>February 4, 2002—meeting with IAPTF representatives, NPS, and Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department regarding trail crossing options.</p> <p>July 29, 2002—letter to NPS notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study, alternatives, potential 4(f), 6(f) resources, and requesting input.</p> <p>January 7, 2003—e-mail from NPS providing additional contact information (Appendix C, page C-16).</p> <p>January 13, 2003—email from NPS providing information on Glacial Drumlin Trail (see Appendix C, page C-17).</p> <p>March 27, 2003—participated in public use land meeting.</p>
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<p>May 24, 2001—transmittal from NRCS providing maps on farmed wetlands from County NN to I-94.</p> <p>November 13, 2001—transmittal from NRCS providing maps on farmed wetlands from I-94 to WIS 16</p>
Native American Interests	
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, Great Lakes Intertribal Council, La Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Ho-Chunk Nation, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake) Community of Wisconsin, Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	<p>October 22, 2001—letter to listed Native American interests notifying about WIS 83 Corridor Study.</p> <p>January 28, 2002—letter from Menominee Indian Tribe expressing concern about any ground disturbing activity that could affect cultural resources; requesting notification of any such discoveries (see Appendix C, page C-18).</p> <p>November 21, 2001—letter from Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma stating that corridor study does not fall within their historic lands; no comment on proposed project (see Appendix C, page C-19).</p> <p>December 5, 2001—letter from Ho-Chunk Heritage Preservation Department notifying that not all tribal sites have been allowed to be state-listed; requesting archaeological survey reports related to project (see Appendix C, page C-20).</p> <p>October 2, 2002—letter to Menominee Tribe representative inviting participation in October 21, 2002 agency coordination meeting.</p>

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